

E2SHB 2630 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

4 (1) Increasing Washington's economic competitiveness requires
5 increasing the supply of skilled workers in the state; and

6 (2) Improving the labor market competitiveness of all Washington
7 residents requires that all residents have access to postsecondary
8 education.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 (1) The state board for community and technical colleges, a
12 nonprofit organization that has been established to address work force
13 development issues by a recognized statewide organization of employers
14 representing a majority of employers in the state, and the work force
15 training and education coordinating board, in consultation with a
16 statewide high-technology organization, shall:

17 (a) Identify high demand occupations, which are occupations where
18 employer demand for workers exceeds the supply of qualified job
19 applicants;

20 (b) Convene or use existing industry groups, such as industry skill
21 panels or other industry or occupational entities, to identify the
22 skill sets that workers need in the high demand occupations;

23 (c) Develop and identify credentials, certificates, and credit-
24 bearing curriculum recognized by postsecondary institutions and
25 employers statewide and that are based on the attainment of the skill
26 sets needed in occupations in high demand sectors;

27 (d) Market the credentials or certificates and credit-bearing
28 curriculum to potential students and employers as a way for them to
29 advance in their careers; and

1 (e) Gain recognition of the credentials or certificates and credit-
2 bearing curriculum by employers.

3 (2) In carrying out the functions of this section, the state board
4 for community and technical colleges shall give priority to high demand
5 occupations in industry sectors important to the economic growth of the
6 state.

7 (3) The state board for community and technical colleges may, in
8 implementing this section, accept, use, and dispose of contributions of
9 money, services, and property. All moneys received by the college
10 board for the purposes of this section must be deposited in a
11 depository approved by the state treasurer. Disbursements of such
12 funds shall be on authorization of the college board or a duly
13 authorized representative thereof. In order to maintain an effective
14 expenditure and revenue control, such funds are subject in all respects
15 to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required to permit
16 expenditure of such funds.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 (1) The state board for community and technical colleges shall
20 develop and implement a pilot work force education program known as the
21 opportunity grant program to provide funding for low-income students
22 enrolled in the program. For the purposes of this program, low-income
23 is defined as one hundred seventy-five percent of the federal poverty
24 level or less. Grant funds may be used for tuition, books, fees, and
25 other expenses associated with attending a work force education
26 program. Students must be enrolled and maintain satisfactory progress
27 in a program developed under section 2 of this act or an existing
28 program leading to a credential or certificate based on skills needed
29 in an occupation in a high demand sector identified under section 2 of
30 this act. The board must:

31 (a) Begin developing the program no later than March 15, 2006, with
32 student enrollment to begin no later than January 1, 2007;

33 (b) Submit an implementation progress report to the legislature and
34 the governor by November 1, 2006. The progress report shall include
35 but not be limited to:

36 (i) Program goals including target student enrollment and program

1 completion numbers, and strategies including program delivery and
2 instructional models for success;

3 (ii) A description of program design including student eligibility
4 criteria and application process, allowable uses of grant funds, a
5 process for calculating and administering awards, monitoring student
6 academic progress;

7 (iii) Pilot college site selection and implementation processes;

8 (iv) Lessons learned during design and implementation and how the
9 program differs from traditional financial aid programs;

10 (v) Results to date including the number of students enrolled,
11 average grant amount, programs in which students enrolled, completions
12 and on-track status of currently enrolled students, job placements, and
13 starting wages earned by program completers to date; and

14 (vi) Continuing evaluation plan including measures, targets, and
15 baseline data required from pilot colleges;

16 (c) Submit a continuing evaluation report to the legislature and
17 governor by January 15, 2008, including but not limited to data on
18 student enrollment, program completion, job placement, and earnings.

19 (2) The state board for community and technical colleges may, in
20 implementing the opportunity grant program, accept, use, and dispose of
21 contributions of money, services, and property. All moneys received by
22 the college board for the program must be deposited in a depository
23 approved by the state treasurer. Disbursements of such funds shall be
24 on authorization of the college board or a duly authorized
25 representative thereof. In order to maintain an effective expenditure
26 and revenue control, such funds are subject in all respects to chapter
27 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required to permit expenditure of
28 such funds.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The work force training and education
30 coordinating board, with cooperation from the state board for community
31 and technical colleges and the higher education coordinating board,
32 shall conduct a study to include:

33 (a) A review of and recommendations for consolidating and
34 simplifying the delivery of state-funded and federally funded work
35 force education programs and work force education aid offered to
36 students in this state, with a goal of achieving easier access to
37 postsecondary education for students;

1 (b) A description of barriers that exist to combining work force
2 education programs and work force education aid, such as state or
3 federal statutes, rules, or regulations, and the relief that may be
4 available through federal waivers;

5 (c) An estimate of the funding gap between available work force
6 education aid and the financial needs of students living in this state;

7 (d) A description of barriers to access and completion of work
8 force education programs in this state; and

9 (e) Recommendations for increasing participation and completion
10 rates for work force education programs.

11 (2) The work force training and education coordinating board must
12 submit its report on the study to the legislature by November 15, 2006,
13 and must coordinate its study and research with the Washington Learns
14 study of postsecondary education.

15 (3) The work force training and education coordinating board may,
16 in carrying out this study, accept, use, and dispose of contributions
17 of money, services, and property. All moneys received by the board for
18 the study must be deposited in a depository approved by the state
19 treasurer. Disbursements of such funds shall be on authorization of
20 the board or a duly authorized representative thereof. In order to
21 maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, such funds are
22 subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is
23 required to permit expenditure of such funds.

24 (4) For purposes of this section:

25 (a) "Financial needs" includes but is not limited to tuition,
26 books, fees, tools, living expenses, and child care expenses.

27 (b) "Work force education aid" means financial aid, funded from
28 state or federal sources, provided to students enrolled in work force
29 education programs.

30 (c) "Work force education programs" means education and skills
31 training, including vocational education, apprenticeships, adult basic
32 education linked to vocational education, work force education under
33 RCW 28C.18.010, work force training provided under chapter 74.08A RCW,
34 and any other related work force training program.

35 (5) This section expires December 31, 2006.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate

1 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
2 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
3 March 15, 2006."

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4 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "program;" strike the
5 remainder of the title and insert "adding new sections to chapter
6 28B.50 RCW; creating new sections; providing an effective date;
7 providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency."

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